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Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DAVID VITTER, a Senator from the State of Louisiana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, the giver and sustainer of life, we thank You that Your power extends beyond humanity's prowess and achievements. We thank You for the things that humble us before the mystery of life and keep us from the folly of worshipping the works of our hands.

Empower our Senators today to do Your will. As they labor for liberty, make them aware of Your willingness to be their divine ally. As they wrestle with issues, may they seek Your wisdom. Whisper Your words when they need them most. Let Your blessings be upon us all as we learn to experience the joy of friendship with You. We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable DAVID VITTER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 12, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID VITTER, a Sen-

ator from the State of Louisiana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. VITTER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in a moment we will begin consideration of the Homeland Security appropriations bill. Yesterday, all first-degree amendments to the bill were required to be filed at the desk. There appear to be about 100 that were filed. Although I hope the Senators will not feel compelled to call up many of these amendments, we have 100. Hopefully we can narrow those down. The chairman and ranking member will do so over the course of the day.

We will finish the bill this week. Therefore, Members should contact the two managers to schedule consideration of their amendments. At the current time, we have three amendments pending, one dealing with veterans health funding and two relating to the homeland grant formula. We hope to shortly work out time agreements on these and vote with respect to at least a couple of these amendments. Therefore, there is a chance for a vote prior to our policy luncheons today. We will alert Members as we come to an agreement on the starting times. We will continue to vote throughout the day on amendments. Senators can expect a busy day.

Yesterday, we came in for a 3-week block. It will be a very busy 3 weeks before our August recess. We need to continue to address the appropriations measures. Prior to the July Fourth re-

cess, we finished some appropriations in a very positive way. We continue with Homeland Security, and we have a number of other legislative priorities. We need to make the most of this legislative period as we work together to complete all of the work that is ahead of us.

We are likely to have a nominee for the Supreme Court sometime in the near future, and much of September, I suspect, will be focused on that, which again establishes a sense of urgency for addressing the very important issues of the business that is before the Senate over the next 3 weeks. I will be talking to the Democrat leader over the course of the day in terms of working through the specifics of that schedule.

SUPREME COURT CONFIRMATION PROCESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I will take a moment now to speak briefly about the confirmation process, the upcoming confirmation process of the new Supreme Court Justice. This morning, the Democrat leader and I and the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee had a discussion with the President of the United States which continues the consulting process which I would say, at least as we get started, is being conducted in an unprecedented way.

Over the last few months, this Senate has made considerable progress with judicial nominations. We have confirmed six of the President's appellate court nominees and four district court nominees. I am very pleased with this progress. Indeed, this is real progress, especially when you consider each of the appeals court nominees were blocked. Those same people were blocked in the last Congress. That is real progress, working in a bipartisan way for the American people.

Now we will be able to continue that progress. To do so, we must place principle before partisan politics, and we

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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